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Cuba Executes 3 and Jails 2 as Spies for C.I.A.

Leader Is Termed National Espionage Coordinator

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Special to The New York Times

HAVANA, June 2 — Cuba announced today that three men accused of spying were executed yesterday in Camaguey Province, and two others, including a former provincial Governor, were sentenced to prison terms. The charges against them were espionage on behalf of the United States' Central Intelligence Agency.

Cuban newspapers also reported that the arrest of these men had broken up their nationwide network, said to have been operated by members of the Lions Club.

The announcement is the latest in a series of incidents that have fed a mood of public emergency over the last two weeks. Army and militia units are mobilized and travel outside the Havana area continues to be prohibited to foreign correspondents.

All Linked to Landowners

The absence of any specific explanation of the reasons for this drive to maintain a state of public alertness and for the continued mobilization has caused considerable speculation here. One theory is that the infiltration promised last month by several exile groups, which has never been confirmed, may have indeed taken place.

The five men listed in today's announcement were identified as being linked to rural landowners who had lost their property under land reform laws. The most recent law, passed late last year, expropriated holdings in excess of 160 acres, a move largely inspired by the Government's belief that larger landowners were disloyal.

The ringleader of the network, according to the press accounts, was Alberto Cesario Fernandez Medrano. He was said to have been the national coordinator of an espionage system whose agents in each province came from the local Lions Club.

Mr. Fernandez was identified as a counselor for the International Association of Lions Clubs. He was said to have received C.I.A. training in Coral Gables, Fla., in 1961, and to have returned to Cuba the following year.



Associated Press

Alberto Cesario Fernandez Medrano, who was executed as alleged C.I.A. spy.

Under the pretext of carrying out club work, the accounts charged, Mr. Fernandez traveled through the island gathering military, economic and political information and making contact with local agents. In April, 1962, he was said to have gone to the United States, apparently to attend a Lions Club meeting but in reality to receive

instructions for recruiting new agents.

The second of those executed was a notary, Marcelino Martinez Tapia. He was identified as president of Rescate, an anti-Castro group that has operated here and in exile. He was accused of trying to get military information from members of the armed forces.

The third man was Manuel Paradela Gomez, who was accused of being the main C.I.A. agent in Camaguey. He was said to have been in charge of receiving and checking information from other agents before passing it along.

Manuel Zayas Bazan, a Governor of Camaguey during the Government of Fulgencio Batista, and Jorge Bermudez, Commander, were given unspecified sentences.

Domestic Aim Discerned

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 2 — United States officials suggested today that germ warfare charges by Premier Castro were primarily intended for domestic consumption in the face of rising tensions in Cuba.

Lions Club Accused of Role in Camaguey Network

The charges, made last night in a military communique signed by Dr. Castro, were described here as "absurd" and "preposterous."

Spokesmen for the Revolutionary Junta, whose chief, Manuel Ray, is believed to be in Cuba engaged in active conspiracy, reported that, according to information from the island, a major act of sabotage was carried out this week in an industrial plant in Santiago, the capital of Oriente Province.

An unexplained flood of coded messages, seemingly of a military nature, were broadcast by all four of the Cuban regime's internal radio networks. They appeared to be concentrated in Oriente Province.

Operators often referred to "Francia-Canada," words with Dr. Castro's initials and men-

tioned a trip in an amphibious vehicle to meet an unidentified visitor.

Monitors here said it was highly unusual for the four networks to be broadcasting jointly and continuously throughout the day.

Cuban Red Cross Accuses U. S.

MIAMI, June 2 (AP) — The Cuban Red Cross said today that anti-Castro forces supported by the United States had been attacking coastal cities, causing great damage and loss of life.

The statement, broadcast by the Cuban radio and monitored by a spokesman said he knew nothing in Miami, was one of the few acknowledgments by the Castro government that attacks were being made.

Active Member of Lions

A spokesman at the international headquarters of the Lions in Chicago confirmed yesterday that Mr. Fernandez had taken a leading role in the service organization. The spokesman said the alleged connection with the C.I.A.

Mr. Fernandez was a district governor of the Lions in 1959 and 1960. When his term expired, he was given the honorary position of counselor. He made his visit to Florida in 1962, the spokesman said, while en route to the international Lions convention in France.

The spokesman said the Chicago headquarters had received no reports from its affiliates in Cuba since mid-April.

The membership and activities of the Cuban clubs have steadily declined since the Castro regime seized power, he said. At their peak, there were 6,000 Cubans in the Lions. By last April this number had declined to 3,000. Most of the members were businessmen.

The spokesman said the Lions are represented in 124 countries by more than 700,000 members, 470,000 of them in the United States.

In China, membership in the Lions was made punishable by death.

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